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REPORT NO. CS -311/09825-69

DATE DISTR. 3/ October 1969

COUNTRY Laos

DOI 27 September 1969

SUBJECT Location of Pathet Lao Prison South of Somsanouk District in Northern Savannakhet Province

ACQ Laos, Vientiane (29 September and 6 October 1969)

SOURCE

1. As of 27 September 1969, a Pathet Lao (PL) prison housing approximately 40 inmates was located in a heavily forested area at WD 428879, roughly 14 kilometers south of Somsanouk District and 100 meters south of the Se (river) Noy in northern Savannakhet Province. The inmates included Royal Lao Armed Forces (FAR) troops and Lao Government irregulars, as well as two Lao civilians and two Thais. The Thais had no clothing other than their shorts. There were no United States prisoners in the area.

2. The prison site was guarded by 20 green-uniformed North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops under the command of two guards. The guards were reported by inmates to be Chinese Communists. Unlike the NVA, they wore khaki uniforms consisting of a four-pocket blouse with epaulets, khaki trousers, a billed khaki cap and a canvas belt. One of the Chinese wore a large silver star and two smaller ones. While one was armed with only one pistol, the second guard carried two. Both spoke Vietnamese and some Lao and resided in separate quarters adjacent to the main prison. Comment: The Chinese guards cited may have been Nungs. Non-Chinese speaking Lao and Thai tend to believe that different-looking, unidentified enemy are Chinese.)

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(WD 433 883) BAN KEN-CHONE

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3. The main prison structure was constructed of lumber and measured approximately 15 meters in length and six meters in width. The gabled roof of the edifice was camouflaged by tree leaves covered with earth. Lao irregulars, FAR troops and civilians detained for attempting to leave the area were housed in three separate rooms. A barbed wire fence two meters in height and comprised of 10 wire strands encircled the prison at a 20 meter radius.

4. An administrative building, guard house and ammunition bunker were located to the south of the main prison structure. They were also surrounded by a barbed wire fence measuring two meters in height and comprised of 10 wire strands.

5. The prison guard force consisted of two guards stationed at the main gate, one at the inside gate, and a fourth patrolling around the prison perimeter. Approximately 100 PL troops were also based in the area. No dogs were observed at anytime.

6.  Comment: Current enemy listings carried no previous reports of a prison in the WD 4287 area, but training and storage facilities are confirmed at WD 4187.

7. Field Dissem: State Army Air USMACV 7th Air Force CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT TFA/NKP
